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A Service of Memory

HERITAGE SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 26, 1993

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Mrs. Hoyle Whiteside,
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PREFACE

This historical material has been collected from a variety of personal, written, noted and un-noted sources.

The various histories have been linked together as originally recorded over the years without edit.

We hope everyone will enjoy this personal journey into the past heritage of Lutheran Chapel as remembered by our predecessors.

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"Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:4-5

Lutheran Chapel Church
Facts and Remembrances

The following is from an oral history of Mr. Abel Lineberger and compiled notes from Mr. Doug Rhyne gathered from Mr. Ken Rhyne, Mrs. Ethel McGinnis, Mrs. Kathryn Thornburg and their father Mr. A.A. Rhyne.

The Old Church --

-- Lutheran Chapel was organized in 1828 - Adam Rhyne gave 3 acres of land on which to build the church.

-- The Original wooden church burned in the year 1872.

-- New brick church built 1873. First brick church in the county.

-- No electrical lighting in the church.

-- Two front doors - men entered and sat on one side - women and children entered and sat on the other.

-- Two big wood stoves at the front. Grandfathers sat around one, grandmothers sat around the other.

-- Abel Lineberger, Frank McCarver, Marvin Carpenter, Clifford Rhyne, were the last to be confirmed in the old church prior to the move to the new church in 1924.

-- Mrs. Fanny Lineberger and Vera Carpenter played the organ in the old church.

-- The organ used in the old church is now in the care of Jason Lineberger.

-- Sunday School classes met in each corner of the old church.

-- The shovel and pick for the graves sat in the back corner of the church.

The New Church - 1924 --

-- The basement was dug by A.A. Rhyne father to Ken, Doug, Ethel McGinnis and Kathryn Thornburg.

-- Ken Rhyne helped dig the basement with others.

-- D.E. Rhyne gave $10,000.00 and the new organ.

-- A.C. Lineberger gave the pews.

-- Windows were all donated as memorials.

-- Big windows were $700.00 each.

-- Small windows were $300.00 each.

-- On April 28, 1925, at 8:00 am Leland Alexander and Janie Robinson were the first couple to be married in the new church building. It was a small ceremony with Pastor Park and two friends. Blanche Robinson was not to be denied the privilege to be a guest. She arranged for the principal to supervise her Ranlo School class and viewed her sister's wedding from behind the organ.

-- Henry Carpenter was the first to be baptized in the new baptismal font.

-- Frances Collins was the first to be baptized in the new church on a Sunday.

-- First funeral was for Mrs. Mary Stroupe - 1926.

-- The N.C. Synod met at Chapel in 1924.

-- The new church - 1924 cost $51,000.00.

-- 1913 First parsonage was built.

-- 1953 Existing parsonage was built for $18,000.

-- 1958 Education building was built $66,000.

-- 1969 Church was renovated. Chapel and new church offices built, $106,000.

-- Lutheran Chapel helped organized Holy Trinity - 1898.

-- Mr. Peter Rhyne had the first car at Chapel 1918 a "Davis".

-- Mr. Polie Stroupe 1918 - 1919 a "Chevrolet".

-- Mr. Abel Lineberger family 1921 a "T-Model"

-- Pastor Park asked families to no longer sit apart when they moved into the new church in 1924.

-- First paid janitor - Mr. Clarence Harper, started in new church 1924. Last to drive a horse and buggy to Chapel and sat in the balcony during services.

-- Mr. A.A. Rhyne, a grading contractor and member of Chapel took the contract to dig the basement of the new church.

-- Mules and drag pans were used.

-- The Mules names were "Ike", "Hat", "Shine" and "Doug".

-- Ken and Clifford Rhyne helped their father.

-- The grading started in February on frozen ground.

-- Brick used in the new church came from Columbia, S.C. and were hauled from the railroad siding to the church with wagon and mules by Ken Rhyne.

-- Finances were so bad during the depression that the Church Council had to take up a collection among themselves to buy coal at, $6.00 a ton, for the furnace to heat the church.

-- A tannery was once located on the church property.

-- The oldest known grave in the cemetery is that of Larkin Hoffman Born 1843, Died 1847.

-- The church is built on a ridge and according to Mr. A.A. Rhyne as told to him by his father, large chestnut trees covered the property - mid 1800's.

-- A.A. Rhyne was a keeper of the church key for years (the old church). Probably because he lived close to the church. Kathryn Rhyne Thornburg said her father would send her and several other children to sweep out the church every two or three weeks. They sometimes found drowned mice in the Baptismal Basin.

-- There was only one outside toilet for the women. The men eased down toward the woods.

-- According to Mr. A.A. Rhyne (1890 - 1895) near the present I-85 at Durhart Creek was a mill pond and a whiskey still. It was said that tax paid whiskey was made during the day and moonshine at night.

-- 1895 - A.A. Rhyne around 15 years of age, was passing the cemetery on a horse late at night and saw something white moving behind a tombstone. Overcoming his fear, he returned to see a white cow moving among the stones.

-- The cemetery was scraped clear of every growing thing once a year by the men of the church.

-- There was no sidewalk to the church or steps until 1954 and at the urging of Pastor Whiteside, walks were poured.

-- The old school was on the property at the north entrance to the church.

Some of the pupils were Ken Rhyne, Kathryn Rhyne Thornburg, Ethel McGinnis, Aline Kiser. No well, no outside toilet. Water was carried from a spring at the rear of the property. School term lasted about 3 months.

The school was still standing when the new church was built.

COMPILED HISTORY

The history of Lutheran Chapel Evangelical Lutheran Church as compiled from the work of Rev. G. H. Park, Mrs. Hoyle L. Whiteside with additional notes from Mrs. Robert L. Thornburg.

Lutheran Chapel Evangelical Lutheran Church is located in Gaston County, in the eastern extension of Gastonia, N.C.

It is regretted that there are no records of the early history of Lutheran Chapel available. Therefore, much of the information given here is gathered from older members of the congregation as they have recalled the events and the statements of their fathers. The church was organized by the Rev. Mr. Abel. J. Brown, in the year 1828. Mr. Caleb J. Lineberger, who was born in 1818, used to say he helped to haul logs for the first church when he was ten years old. That would put the date, 1828. There are no records of recollections of the names of pastors that followed him until the Rev. Mr. J.R. Peterson became pastor about 1840.

The Rev. Mr. Peterson was pastor when, in 1872, the original frame building was replaced by a brick church, about 40 X 60 feet. It was the first brick church in Gaston County. The elders who were in charge of erecting the building were: Moses H. Rhyne, Lewis Lineberger, Jonathan Rhyne, and Jonas Hoffman. The bricks used in the building were made on the church property on the land now (1960) located directly in front of the parsonage. Rufus Jenkins was both contractor and brick maker.

The cornerstone of the building was laid in December, 1872, by the Rev. Mr. A. J. Fox, President of the Tennessee Synod, assisted by Pastor Peterson, and the Rev. Mr. Nathan Aldrich, Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Charlotte.

The church was dedicated August 14, 15, and 16, 1874. The Rev. Mr. M.L. Little and the Rev. Mr. J.M. Smith preached.

On Monday morning, January 8, 1883, the interior of the church was burned out, leaving the walls standing. The inside of the building was soon rebuilt, and the church used again. Meanwhile, Pastor Peterson had resigned before the building was burned, and so preached only one time after the fire. The church was re-dedicated on June 1, 1884. Dr. L.A. Bickle preached the sermon.

The Rev. Mr. M.L. Little succeeded the Rev. Mr. Peterson as pastor and served the congregation until he was killed in a train wreck on February 16, 1891. The Rev. Mr. L.L.Lohr became pastor in 1891, and served two years. Sometime during the following three years, the Rev. Mr. S.S. Rahn served as pastor for about a year. Pastor J.A. Rudisill came in 1895, but preached only a few sermons at Lutheran Chapel before his death in the same year. He was immediately succeeded by the Rev. Mr. John F. Moser, who also, died while serving this church, in 1897. Up until the Rev. Mr. Moser became pastor, Lutheran Chapel was in a pastorate with Philadelphia and Antioch, Dallas, NC, but just before Pastor Moser came, Lutheran Chapel and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Mt. Holly, NC became a pastorate.

The Rev. Mr. W.J. Boger, upon his ordination in 1897, became pastor of Lutheran Chapel and the Church of the Good Shepherd at Mount Holly. In 1898, members of Lutheran Chapel, led by their pastor, the Rev. Mr. Boger, took active part in organizing Holy Trinity church in Gastonia. Of the five men who acted as trustees in buying the present lot for Holy Trinity in August, 1896, four

were members of Lutheran Chapel. The were: William Bell, John L. Rhyne, William M. Robinson, and William Lineberger.

Pastor Boger served twelve years, until 1909. After his resignation, the pastorate was changed again so that Lutheran Chapel, Holy Trinity, and Grace, Bessemer City (which was organized in 1902) united calling the Rev. Mr. John Hall, who served the charge two years, 1910 and 1911. He was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. M.A. Ashby, whose pastorate lasted only about a year.

At the close of Pastor Ashby's pastorate, Holy Trinity withdrew and became a home mission church under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. J.C. Dietz, leaving Lutheran Chapel and Grace, Bessemer City, to form a pastorate. The Rev. Mr. L.L. Huffman was called and became pastor in May, 1914. He served these two churches until September 26, 1915, when a new pastorate was formed of Lutheran Chapel, Christ, Stanley and Bethel, Iron Station. Pastor Huffman served these churches only about a month until he resigned in October, 1915.

The Rev. Mr. A.L. Bolick succeeded Pastor Huffman in July, 1916, and served until July, 1921. During his pastorate, on March 27, 1921, the congregation unanimously ratified the merger resolution which merged the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Ministerium of North Carolina into the United Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North Carolina.

In July 1921, Lutheran Chapel decided that the services of a full-time pastor would be necessary in order that the rapidly growing industrial population could be better served. So, on March 1, 1922, the Rev. Mr. G.H.C. Park became the first

full-time pastor of Lutheran Chapel. Soon the wisdom of securing a full-time pastor proved to be a most worthwhile decision. During the first year, the confirmed membership increased, as well as the average attendance at Sunday School. All the financial obligations were met, and the budget for the ensuing year was oversubscribed by 20 percent.

On September 27, 1902, a tract of one acre adjoining the original church lot on the south was secured from W. H. Rhyne for $25.00, and upon this the cemetery was extended. On August 12, 1910, another tract of three acres adjoining the original church lot on the north was secured from Forest F. Rhyne for $250.00 upon which a two-story, six room frame parsonage was built in 1913. During the Rev. Mr. A.L. Bolick's pastorate, three more rooms were added to the parsonage, and early in 1922, electric lights were installed, creating a large, commodious nine-room parsonage.

On May 5, 1919, when the public school located between the parsonage and church was discontinued, Mrs. M.J. McArver secured the half-acre of land and deeded it to the trustees of Lutheran Chapel. With the addition of these three tracts of land, the church property now consists of about eleven acres. In 1922-23 a new brick church was constructed, under the Rev. Mr. G.H.C. Park's pastoral leadership, at a cost of around $50,000.00 of which Mr. Daniel Efird Rhyne gave an initial sum of $10,000.00. This building has a full basement, and is provided with equipment for modern church work. The new building was opened for services in the summer of 1923. The 1924 meeting of Synod was held at Lutheran Chapel in November 17-20.

When the cornerstone of the old church was opened for the records, all that was found were

three coins; a nickel, a penny, and a half dime--and black dust. The records had been disintegrated by heat and moisture. In the cornerstone of the new church, the following articles were placed in a sealed copper box: a Bible; the Church Book, containing Luther's Small Catechism and the Augsburg Confession; a copy of the Minutes of the Synod; the Lutheran; the Constitution of the Congregation; a copy of the history of the church as compiled by the Rev. Mr. Park; a list of the officers of the congregation and sunday School, the 157 confirmed members of the congregation; the Gastonia Daily Gazette; the Charlotte Observer; and three coins taken from the old cornerstone.

Succeeding Pastor Park was the Rev. Mr. B.Y. Boozer, who assumed his duties on June 1, 1926. He served as pastor until 1932. On March 1, 1932, the Rev. Mr. C.O. Lippard became pastor of Lutheran Chapel. Pastor Lippard and his wife met a tragic death in Chicago, Illinois, on September 11, 1933, as the result of an automobile accident.

On November 1, 1933, the Rev. Mr. J. Frank Davis became pastor of Lutheran Chapel. During his pastorate at Lutheran Chapel, the church membership increased a great deal as well as the spirit of the congregation. Lutheran Chapel Church was dedicated to the service of Almighty God, November 8, 1936 at 11:00 a.m. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. J.L. Morgan, while Pastor Frank Davis served a liturgist. The dedicatory service came as a climax to a week of services with sermons preached by Rev. Dr. R.L. Patterson, Rv. Mr. W.G. Cobb, Rev. Mr. George Bowden, Rev. Mr. Robert Shelby, Rev. Mr. Boyd Hamm, and Rev. Dr. E.H. Kohn. Pastor Davis served Lutheran Chapel as their pastor until 1938, at which time Rev. Dr. F.P. Cauble moved to Gastonia. Due to his faithful,

consecrated service, Lutheran Chapel again took a big step forward. On February 16-17, 1939, the Southern Conference of the N.C. Synod met at Lutheran Chapel. The Rev. Mr. Claude V. Deal became pastor in 1941, and with much regret on the part of the congregation, he went into the chaplaincy in 1942. His term of office was rather short, but has long been remembered by the members of Lutheran Chapel. The Rev. Mr. John L. Morgan, who has recently (1959) received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Lenoir Rhyne College, Hickory, N.C., became Pastor Deal's successor. Pastor Morgan served as pastor of Lutheran Chapel from 1942-1947, during which time his son, Paul, was commissioned as a foreign missionary, and his daughter, Miriam, was married to the Rev. Mr. Harold G. Deal, Jr., of Hickory. On October 31, 1945, Lutheran Chapel was again host to the Southern Conference of the N.C. Synod.

While the Rev. Mr. L.C. Bumgarner served this church as pastor, a Mr. and Mrs. Club was organized for which many of the things added to make the church more beautiful and worshipful are accredited. During his pastorate, a great many repairs to the church were made in the bell tower and on the bell. After the resignation of Pastor Bumgarner, the church extended a call to the Rev. Mr. Hoyle L. Whiteside, of Hickory, N.C. Pastor Whiteside assumed duties at Lutheran Chapel on July 1, 1953.

The members of Lutheran Chapel are certainly to be commended for the splendid work they have been doing for many past years and especially for the accomplishments they have been able to make in the past seven years. We say the past seven because they are the years a great many of us are better able to remember our achievements.

On August 9, 1953, the members of Lutheran Chapel celebrated the church's 125th Anniversary. Dr. F.L. Conrad, President of the N.C. Synod, delivered the message for the day, and at which time, Pastor Whiteside was installed as Pastor.

The construction of a new parsonage was begun in July, 1953. Mr. Ralph Quinn was chairman of the building committee. Mr. W.H. Moton was in charge of the carpentry part of the building. Mr. Rufus Carpenter and sons, Gene, John, Henry, and Love, were the persons who did the brick construction of the parsonage. Through donations of free labor from these men and other members of the church, the members of Lutheran Chapel are please to have a nice brick parsonage, located to the north of the church. The parsonage was completed by November, 1953. An open house was held, December 13, 1953, sponsored by the Women of the Church. The estimated value of the new parsonage was $18,000.00.

In April, 1954, a Boy Scout Troop was organized and has been supported by the U.L.C. Men of Lutheran Chapel to accommodate the boys of our church as well as the boys in the community. During the past six years two of the boys have received the Pro Deo et Patria award: Larry McCarter and Polie Stroup, Jr. Five boys have received their Eagle Badges: Larry McCarter, Mickey Canipe, Polie Stroup, Jr., Bill Robinson, and Ralph Quinn, Jr.

On September 26, 1954, a great many repairs were made to the church. A new oil furnace with new heating ducts was installed to replace the old coal furnace; the basement was repaired and repainted; the church was re-plastered and repainted; the floors of the church were re-sanded And refinished; and the vestibule was repaired and repainted.

LIST OF PASTORS

A.J. Brown	1828	G.H.C. Park	1921-1926
J.R. Peterson	1840-1883	V.Y. Boozer	1926-1931
M.L. Little	1883-1891	C.O. Lippard	1932-1933
L.L. Lohr	1891-1893	J. Frank Davis	1933-1938
S.S. Raha, Sup.	1894	F.G. Cauble	1938-1941
J.A. Rudisill	1895	Claude V. Deal, Sr.	1941-1942
J.F. Moser	1895-1897	John L. Morgan	1942-1947
W.J. Boger	1897-1909	L.C. Bumgarner	1947-1952
Dr. John Hall	1910-1911	Hoyle L. Whiteside	1953-1960
M.A. Asby	1912	Jerry L. Hollar, Sr.	1961-1966
L.L. Huffman	1914-1915	Donald E. Woolly	1967-1974
A.L. Bollek	1916-1921	Charles R. McManus	1974-1989
		Dr. Dennis Bolton	1989-

The church grounds were greatly improved during March, 1955. Concrete curbing and walks were laid. Grass was planted at the front entrance to the church. Here again the men of the church did the work, with the cement and materials being donated by John Hall Robinson. Cement walks were made to the parsonage with the work and materials being furnished by William M. "Bill" Robinson and Elbert Robinson. The men cleaned the cemetery and improved the church driveways. A new choir loft was built in the vacant space beside the pulpit, and a new church piano was bought for the nave of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Banks McArver, Sr. purchased eighteen chairs for the new choir loft. Two new Bibles were purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Stroup, one for the lectern and one for the pulpit. The Luther Leaguers of Lutheran Chapel erected a brick bulletin board on the lawn in front of the church.

With much relief and happiness the parsonage was dedicated in a formal service on April 7, 1957, conducted by Dr. F.L. Conrad, President of the N.C. Synod. In addition to the dedication of the parsonage, the following items of furnishings and equipment together with improvements of the church building were, also, blessed and dedicated: Bibles for the Pulpit and Lectern, Piano, a set of stoles, Junior Choir Robes, a heating system, Chairs, a bulletin Board, a closet for the paraments, a cabinet for the communion set, a choir loft, cement walks around the church and parsonage, and a re-dedication of the organ which was repaired at a cost of $2,000.00.

In 1958, Mrs. J. Loy Lineberger purchased a new communion tray and glasses for the church in memory of her husband.

A groundbreaking service for a new Parish Building was held on September 1, 1957. The Parish Building is an L-shaped building and is located to the east and north of the church, the back entrance of the church meets with the entrance to the fellowship hall of the new building. There are 10 classrooms, a kitchen, 2 large bathrooms, a church office, a pastor's office, a large chapel, a Boy Scout room, and a large fellowship, recreation, and dining area. The Chapel was furnished in memory of John Hall Robinson, by his wife and children. The Pastor's Office was furnished by Mr. & Mrs. I.N. Chrisp and Flora and Earl Lewis. The Church Office was furnished in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Banks McArver, Sr., by their children. The kitchen cabinets were given by Dr. and Mrs. James B. Lewis. the piano in the fellowship hall was given by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Rhyne. Mr. & Mrs. Odell McGinnis purchased a stove for the kitchen to be used until a commercial type stove can be purchased. The children of Mr. & Mrs. A.A. Rhyne contributed money to furnish a Ladies Lounge in memory of their parents. The ten classrooms were furnished in this manner: (1) In honor of Mr. & Mrs. B.W. Lewis, by their children; (2) In memory of Ellis S. Robinson, by his wife and children; (3) In memory of Lillian Turner Shelton, by Mr. & Mrs. Elbert Robinson; (4) In memory of Lloyd L. Quinn, by his wife and children; (5) In Memory of Thomas G. Rhyne, by his wife and children; (6) In memory of Rufus P. Carpenter, by his wife and children; (7) Furnished by Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Kiser; (8) Furnished by Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Lewis; (9) Furnished by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Helton; and (10) Furnished by Miss Ferrie McArver. The Fellowship Hall was furnished

by Mr. & Mrs C.L. Pasour, in Memory of Bessie B. Robinson. Beautiful walks to connect the new building with the church were donated by William M. "Bill" Robinson. The new building was used for the first time on Palm Sunday, March 30, 1958. The Formal Opening the Consecration Service for the new Parish Building was held, August 30, 1958. Dr. F.L. Conrad, President of the N.C. Synod, conducted the service, and Pastor Whiteside served as Liturgist.

During the past seven years, the Luther League of Lutheran Chapel have taken many strides forward. The young people have received the plaque for being the outstanding League in the state of North Carolina for three years, 1956, 1957, and 1958. The Luther League is presently (1960) collecting funds with which to build a cover over the walkway connecting the Parish Building and the church.

Due to the members dedicated service through Lay-Evangelism, the congregation was most happy to report that on March 22, 1959, fifty new members were received into membership at Lutheran Chapel. The members worked long and hard, but the harvest was great for the Kingdom of God. On April 11, 1959, the women of Lutheran Chapel entertained at a dinner meeting the Southern Conference United Lutheran Church Women at their Annual Spring Meeting. The U.L.C. Women of Lutheran Chapel have purchased for the parsonage, a set of andirons, a carpet, and a gold framed mirror. They had cabinets built for the communion set and the paraments. A set of stoles and two sets of paraments (white and purple) have been given to the church by the U.L.C.W. They have purchased many utensils for the church kitchen, and they have contributed a large sum of money toward the purchase of a commercial-type stove for the kitchen

in the Parish Building. They have done many more things, however, you can readily see the women have been and still are at work.

On Palm Sunday, April 10, 1960, Pastor Whiteside wore for the first time a beautiful white surplice and a rabat purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Wolfe.

The members of Lutheran Chapel were willing to permit Pastor Whiteside to take time from his work in order to do graduate work at the Southern Seminary, He received one of the first two Masters of Sacred Theology Degrees ever awarded by the Southern Seminary at Columbia, South Carolina in May 1959.

Lutheran Chapel has sent three men into the gospel Ministry: Brady L. Stroup - now deceased; Fred L. Lineberger - now retired; and Rufus Cuthbertson - now serving as pastor in Georgia. There are four boys at present (1960) in pre-theological training: Carroll Lee Robinson - Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C.; Larry McCarter - Lenoir Rhyne college, Hickory, N.C.; Carrol Leonard Robinson - L.R.C., Hickory, N.C.; and Earnest Brooks - L.R.C., Hickory, N.C.

We are most happy to state that on August 2, 1960 the members of Lutheran Chapel were able to permit Neal Hawkins Construction Company to pave the driveways leading into the church. This was a big undertaking but is one the congregation felt was greatly needed.

In the early 1960's with Jerry L. Hollar serving as pastor a long range planning committee was appointed to develop a major renovation plan

for the church basement and repairs to the sanctuary. Renovation plans were submitted for study to the Church Council in January, 1966.

On June 1, 1967, the Reverend Donald E. Woolly became our pastor. A special debt retirement drive to retire the remaining $10,000.00 indebtedness on the parish building began in September of the same year. The last payment was made in December, 1967. The Service of Dedication and Mortgage Burning was conducted by Pastors Woolly and Hoyle L. Whiteside.

On April 21, 1968, the congregation voted to adopt preliminary building and renovation plans submitted by the architect Mr. David M. Tompkins. In June of that year a funding appeal began.

Bids were submitted on May 1, 1969, but because of the tight money market the Finance Committee was unable to borrow money to begin the construction.

On September 28, 1969, the bond drive was underway and by November 2, all bonds had been sold.

The church council awarded the contract to Mr. F. Kelly Clemmer for a general contract of $106,681.00; work began on November 18, 1969.

An informal ground breaking ceremony following the regular worship hour was conducted by Pastor Woolly on November 23, 1969. The service for the Laying of a Cornerstone for the Memorial Chapel and Office Addition was conducted by pastor Woolly on April 26, 1970. Participation in the service were members of the Luther Choir, representing the children of the church, members of the Church Council, and the auxiliary heads.

On May 31, 1970, we rejoiced in worshiping for the first time in the renovated sanctuary.

The renovation of the sanctuary included all areas of the building. the exterior of the church was much improved by sand blasting. Leading into the front of the church of the new steps are of grey North Carolina flagstone. all exterior doors with large brass pulls were added.

Inside, the electrical system was completely rewired and all electrical fixtures replaced with the exception of the hanging lights in the nave. The organ was completely rebuilt at a cost of more than double the original price. Chimes were added. All church furniture was refinished; choir screens and altar rail are new additions. Also added were two side entrances and carpet over the entire area. the sacristy was modernized with carpet, work area, and cabinets for storage of vestments and altar cloths.

The renovation of the basement centered on the youth of the church. Here facilities are available for scouting and other youth groups. Features include a youth lounge, kitchenette, updated toilet facilities, and a ladies robing and bridal room.

Connecting the church with the Parish Building is the covered walk with its screened wall. Directly behind this brick wall, between the church and Parish building, is the court yard containing brick walks and a large center planter with a statue, Thronwaldesen's "The Ascending Christ."

The Memorial Chapel in the new Memorial Chapel and Office Addition offers a quite, worshipful area for various gatherings including weddings, vespers, and Sunday School. All the furnishings are from

the old chapel with the exception of the credence shelves and the brass on the altar.

Across the foyer from the chapel are properly appointed offices for the pastor and church secretary including a supply and work room.

Some changes were made in the Parish building. In the former chapel area is a spacious nursery and kindergarten suite with toilet facilities. Leading from the Kindergarten area through sliding doors is a fenced play yard.

Located in the former church offices is a church parlor. Equipped with a kitchenette and heated and cooled separately from the rest of the building, this room will be used for small group meetings.

Graded furniture has been added in the classrooms for the nursery through sixth grade.

We are aware that facilities alone serve no good purpose. The challenge of Lutheran Chapel Church at the present and in the future is to develop her program for the sake of Christ and his people. We are living in a new age. "The most modern Sunday School arrangement of 1924" will not fit into the program needed today.

The present indebtedness of $95,000.00 is a small challenge compared to the mounting need for expanded activities centered around a Christian atmosphere. The members of Lutheran Chapel Church commit themselves to a task even greater than building buildings. Pastor Don Woolly ended his ministry at Lutheran Chapel in 1974 accepting a call to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Columbia, SC.

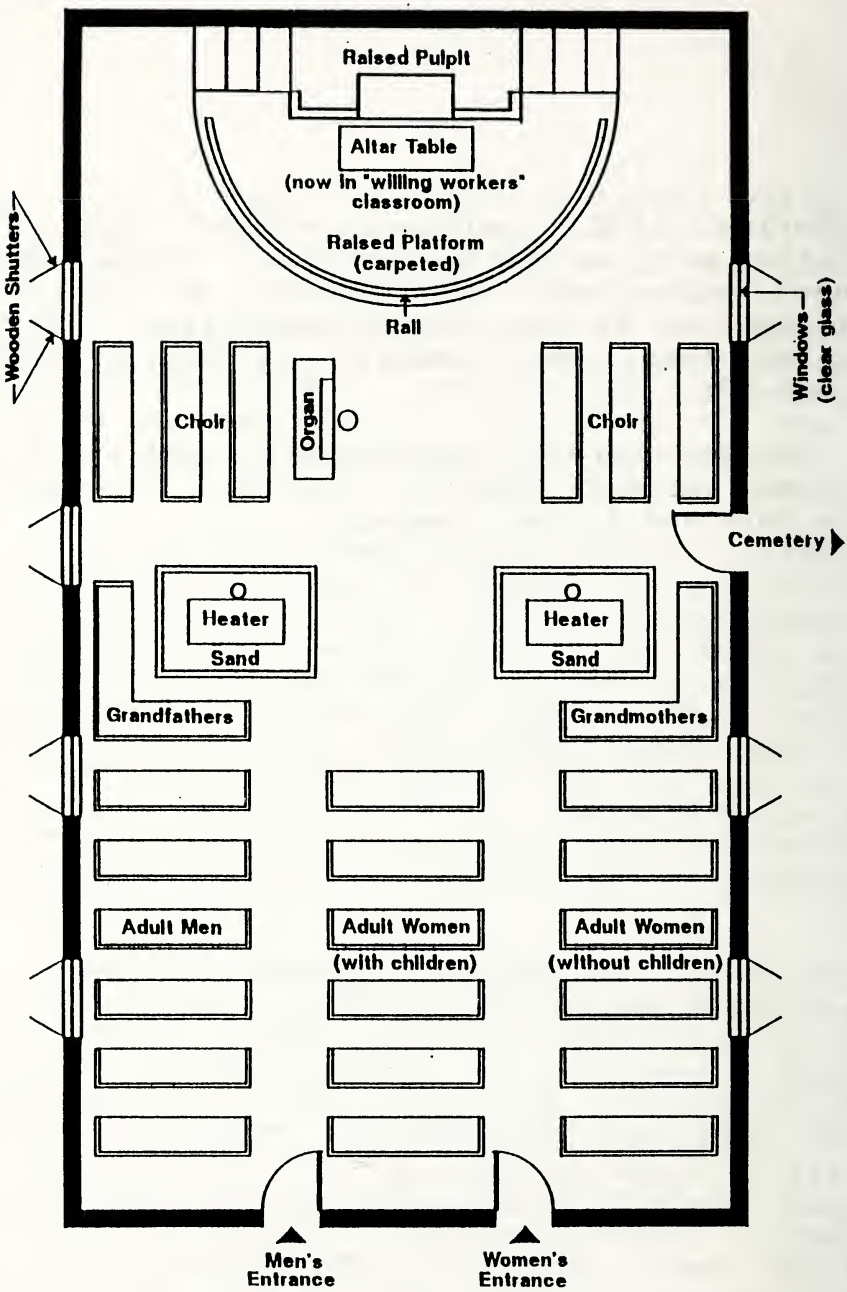
In the same year Lutheran Chapel called the Rev. Charles McManus as their new pastor. During Pastor McManus' 15 years of faithful service, the congregation paid off the debt incurred in the earlier expansion and renovation of the Educational Building. Additional property was purchased at the rear of the church (approximately 2 acres) to provide an expansion for the cemetery. The Rev. McManus served the longest tenure as pastor since the Rev. J.R. Peterson in 1840-1883.

In the latter years Pastor McManus' service, a volunteer work group was formed to provide care, maintenance and upkeep for the church property. This group later became known as the "Dirty Collar Workers" with the present (1993) membership of approximately 12 men and 3 women. This group of dedicated men and women have, over the years provided thousands of dollars in labor and service savings for the congregation. Pastor McManus ended his ministry at Lutheran Chapel after accepting a call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, in South Port, NC in 1989.

Lutheran Chapel called The Rev. Dr. Dennis R. Bolton in August 1989 and is currently serving as the present (1993) pastor. Beginning in 1990 Lutheran Chapel became an Internship training congregation. The following individuals have served one-year internships: The Rev. Monte Stevens, Dayton, OH, The Rev. Dr. Janis T. Kinley, Prattville, Alabama, Mr. Lewis Murdock, Senior, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC. and presently, Mr. Bob Byrne. There are also two members of Lutheran Chapel serving their Internship this year (1993): Mr. Mike VanDyke and Mrs. Linda Hopkins Voelker.

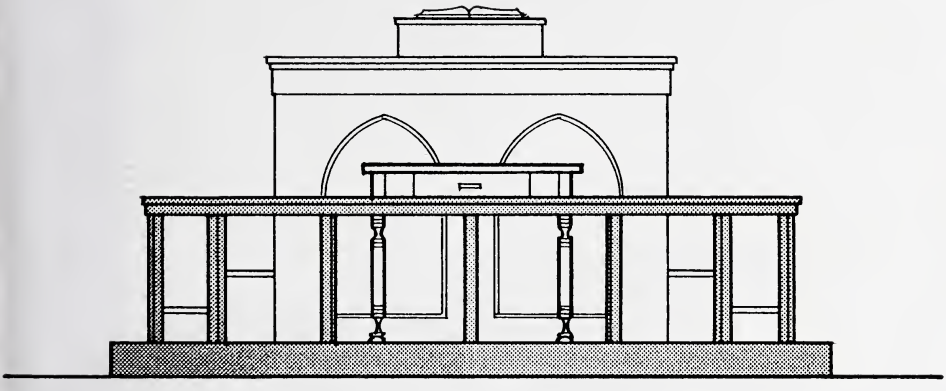
During 1992, Lutheran Chapel began a renovation program for the sanctuary. Renovation included structural improvements, as well as beautification of the church facilities. Total cost for these improvements was approximately $100,000.00.

Lutheran Chapel looks forward to many years of continued service, growth, and care for God's people here and in the community.



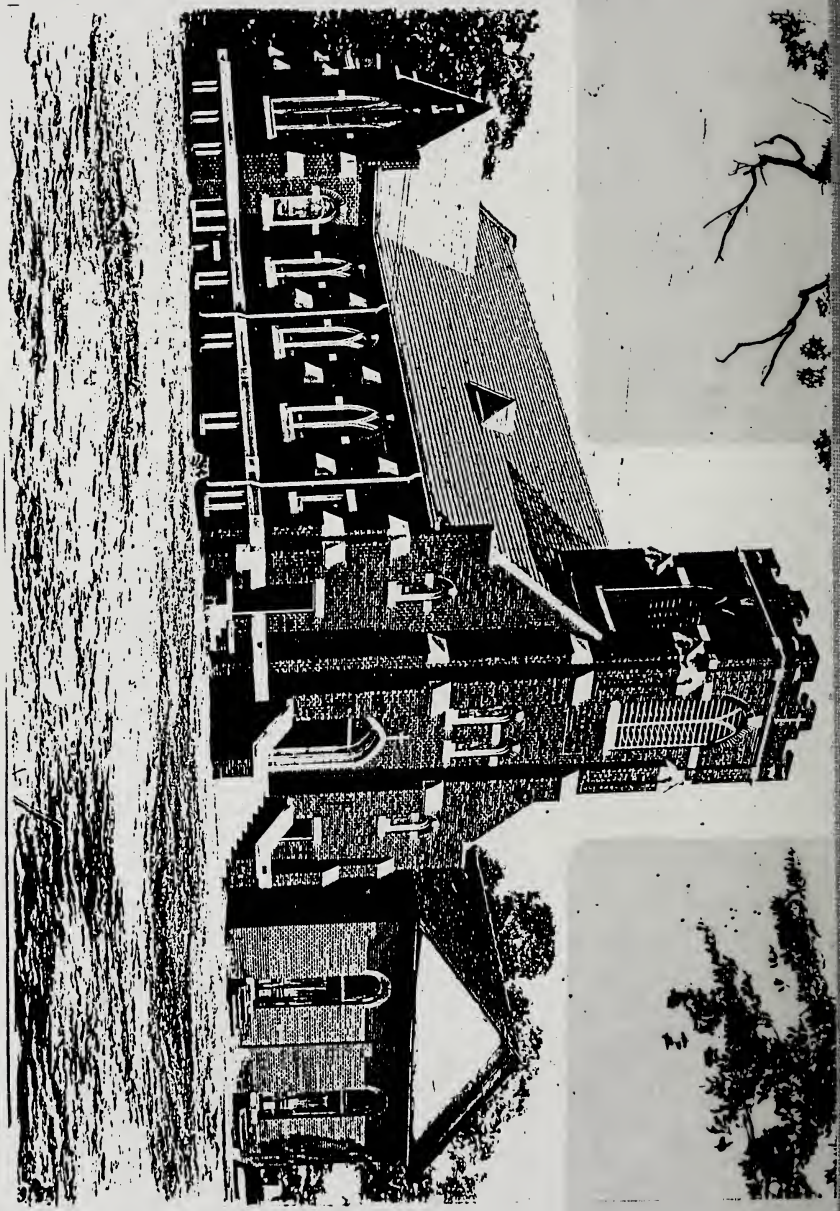
FLOOR PLAN

Former Brick Church built in 1872



Altar Table and Pulpit

Drawings done by Mr. John Cooper as recalled by the late Mrs. Kathryn Thornburg and Mr. Abel Lineberger.



CHURCH OF 1873 - TO THE RIGHT OF
THE PRESENT CHURCH BUILT IN 1924